SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year – June 25, 1973

No 203

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

A fresh important gain

THE communiqué signed on June 13, 1973 at the Kléber International Conference Centre by the four parties to the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam was a new gain of the Vietnamese people in the course of the implementation of the January cease-fire. Its fourteen points reaffirmed the fundamental provisions of the latter and those which had not been strictly observed by the US and the Saigon administration. The document also consolidated the legal basis of its predecessor and unquestionably spelled out that the US and Saigon sides had committed very serious violations of the Paris Agreement and International Conference's Act.

Under the impact of the truthfulness and seriousness of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam and of the DRVN Government, the other sides had had to comply with a number of provisions of the Paris Agreement, such as the withdrawal of US and satellite troops, reduction or cessation of clashes by the Saigon administration in some places, and return of most of the military personnel of both sides. Other stipulations like the operation of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission, consultations between the two South Vietnamese parties, the mine-removal in the North and the functioning of the DRVN-US Joint Economic Commission had begun to be, or been partly, implemented. But a series of important clauses namely the cease-fire, ensurance of democratic liberties in South Viet Nam, release of civilian personnel, had been gravely transgressed by the US and Saigon parties. Tens of thousands of inroads, police operations, bloody actions under the "pacification" program had been mounted, many civilian personnel had not been freed, tens of thousands of people continued to be kept under custody and victimized, and the activities of the International Commission and Joint Military Commissions had been hindered and undermined.

The aforesaid breaches had been aided, abetted and even master-minded by the US which had itself been responsible for inexcusable ones like setting up a US military attachés' body, actually a travestied new US military command, leaving behind and introducing tens of thousands of military advisers disguised as civilians, unlawfully bringing into South Viet Nam armaments and other war materials, reconnoitering and bombing areas under the PRG control, carrying out drone flights over North Viet Nam, and unilaterally halting the mine-sweeping operations there and discontinuing the meetings of the Joint Economic Commission.

ALL the above had shed light on US reluctance to end its involvement in Viet Nam and US persistence in the attempt to preserve its neo-colonialist domination, spawned a very alarming tension, posed a threat to the enforcement of the Paris Agreement and endangered peace in Viet Nam and Indochina. The new conjuncture called for a reappraisal which led to the signing of the June 13, 1973 joint communiqué. This has made clear the responsibilities of the US and Saigon sides: thorough observance of the cease-fire, mapping out of both sides' areas of control, on-the-spot contacts of both sides' commands, return of civilian detainees, respect of the privileges and immunities of the Two-Party Joint Military Commissions, achievement of national concord, and ensurance of the people's democratic freedoms.

The new arrangement has also reiterated the ban on reprisals and discrimination, and on illegal introduction of weapons and military personnel into South Viet Nam. It has also set time limits for the implementation of the unobserved provisions.

It is consistent with the 6 points the PRG put forward on April 25, 1973 at the Consultative Conference of the two South Vietnamese parties at La Celle Saint Cloud. It implies the recognition of the actual existence in South Viet Nam of two political regimes, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces and reaffirms that it is only on the basis of such recognition, in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord and more particularly by ending completely US involvement in South Viet Nam that the latter's internal affairs can be settled.

If strictly abided by, the new accord will be conducive to a hopeful juncture in South Viet Nam. The fighting will come to a final stop. Genuine peace, our people's fondest wish, will be made stable. Tens of thousands of patriots will be set at liberty. All democratic freedoms will be enforced. All internal problems will be solved in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord, life will be restored to normal, every one will be free from want and care, every family will be reunited, villages and hamlets will live in peace and joy, the country will become prosperous.

THE joint communiqué was the sequel of a tough struggle against the breakers of the Paris Agreement. The point now that it has been signed is its observance and scrupulous execution by all the parties to it.

As far as the NFL and PRG and the DRVN are concerned, such a conduct will be a matter of course. They will resolutely fight for the other sides' similar behaviour. The latter's declarations made immediately after the release of the June communiqué, which clashed with all the agreements concluded, as well as the experience of the last four months requires of our friends in the world high watchfulness and vigorous action to get it and its predecessor strictly and fully implemented.

Our effort has scored another success but it still has to go on. For foreign warlike forces have not renounced their designs upon our country while their native agents continue to act as their pliant tools. Many difficulties and complexities are lying ahead, which calls for our people's stronger than ever unity and sense of our entire nation's one-mindedness in combat, we are prepared to deal with and frustrate every vicious scheme and every brutal method of the enemy and attain our immediate objectives which are peace, independence, democracy, well-being and national concord.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government once more reaffirms its unchanging stand to fully respect and correctly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and will do its utmost to carry out the measures put forth by the Joint Communiqué. At the same time, it resolutely demands that the US government and the Saigon administration do likewise.

Only when the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam is scrupulously and fully implemented can peace be lasting in South Viet Nam, and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination be ensured.

(June 14 statement of the RSVN Foreign Ministry)

POLITICAL PRISONERS ?

Thieu : NO. The Vietnamese : YES

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1974 Copy

20,000 : not an inflated number

A Saigon "deputy" put out on June 13, 1973 a *White Book* revealing the presence of tens of thousands of political prisoners in Thieu's jails and commenting that their number was increasing day by day.

The 210-page document is entitled : "Are there political prisoners ? Nguyen Van Thieu says : No. The Vietnamese say : Yes."

Following is an excerpt from it : "... The number of political prisoners now being held by the Nguyen Van Thieu administration cannot be exactly assessed because one does not know how many official and unofficial police organizations Thieu has set up... and several people have been arrested and jailed under special circumstances..., but the estimate of 200,000 political detainees put out by *International Amnesty* and many other sources is not an inflated one. In only 6 big prisons in South Viet Nam, there are already 94,000 political detainees, and besides, there exist about 50 official jails in different provinces, a number of them capable of confining up to 4,000 people."

The principal : Nguyen Van Thieu

After 60 days of hunger strike, Madame Ngo Ba Thanh sent on June 13, 1973 from the Saigon administration's prison to the press a vigorous protest against the Saigon administration's failure to abide by the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, especially its provisions on the people's democratic liberties and the return of political detainees.

The woman leader called on world public opinion "to condemn the savage discrimination against the political prisoners, the so-called legal police actions and fascist violence of the Thieu administration against Vietnamese belonging to the third political force."

She denounced that Nguyen Van Thieu had not only refused to recognize the RSVN PRG with which he had signed the agreement, but also wanted to wipe out the third force of which he had solemnly recognized the existence and equal representation right with the other two forces in the national council of national reconciliation and concord in South Viet Nam.

... The Nguyen Van Thieu administration must return all the political prisoners still in its hands and put an end to its fascist police measures.

The Saigon regime however is turning a deaf ear to the mounting protest of the political, religious and social circles, students, professors and other people in South Viet Nam as well as the world over.

Iron bars everywhere

Father Truong Ba Can said : "All the detainees are confined in the row of houses at the police directorate. The first floor is a single large ward capable of accommodating any number of prisoners and the second floor is divided into two wards. All the wards give on the yard and are guarded by heavy iron bars, which prevent the inmates' movements... Everywhere, there are iron bars. The sight of the prison is completely similar to that of a zoo.

The prisoners are confined in wards behind iron bars and are only permitted to go out to take meals, and the iron door is closed after they finish eating. They eat, sit, lie and sleep... on the floor exactly like in a pigsty..."

"Return to the right path"

The letter dated April 27, 1973 from Nguyen Truong Cuu, a student of the Saigon Faculty of Literature now being held in Bien Hoa prison, to one of his mates, said in part : "For a few days now, the jailers at Bien Hoa prison, have been drawing up a new list of the detainees. Prisoners previously classified as political ones and had had to carry a jail number were now regarded as common law prisoners and must change clothes which are but rags. The prisoners were forced to sign, or put their fingerprint on, prepared forms called *Volunteer to return to the right path.* Those who refuse to comply were immediately put to torture and taken to unknown destinations. As the major part of the prisoners declined to sign, from March 20 to 22, 1972 alone, I saw with my own eyes 47 prisoners including 20 students (10 of the Faculty of Law, 4 of the Faculty of Literature and 6 of the Medical College) in my ward taken away. When the other prisoners demonstrated to get information about their mates' whereabouts they were told they had been released. The detainees, invoking the Paris Agreement, denounced such acts as violations of the accord. The Captain in charge of the jail had to promise to the protesters to bring them back, but for nearly a month now, the abducted prisoners have not been returned. Facing the prisoners' protest, the Captain said "This was the American adviser's order and we have to carry it out. All of you here may experience the same lot."

Bloody figures

Before the cease-fire, there were 400 political detainees at the Bang Ky prison (Gia Dinh) but up to March 20, 1973 there remained only 30. The Saigon administration had secretly liquidated or taken to unknown destinations 370 of them.

At the Con Dao jail, 800 prisoners in Ward 6, 500 in Ward 7 and many others in Ward 8 were also marched away. From the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam's coming into force to mid-March 1973, more than 2,400 prisoners at Tan Hiep jail were disposed of the same way. At detention places in West Nam Bo the number of inmates secretly killed or taken away rose to 18,000. In Phu Quoc jail alone their total reached 14,500.

On the morning of Feb. 19, 1973, the Saigon administration took 5 prisoners from the Ben Tre jail to the seaside, shot them dead and throw their corpses into the sea. The atrocity was disclosed by Son Ha, the only survivor.

On the night of April 15, 1973, Saigon police at the Tay Ninh jail stealthily took 25 political detainees to the Ben Keo riverside in Long Yen hamlet, Long Thanh village, Phu Khuong district, where they were strangled or stabbed to death and then thrown into the sea. The body of one of them named Tam Sao was sighted floating along the riverside and then identified by his relatives.

Another positive proof

On the morning of May 30, 1973, shots were heard at the Nha Trang provincial capital. The local people thought it was an exchange of fire between the two sides.

But it was not. The firing took place inside the Nha Trang jail where were held over 1,200 prisoners. The Saigon men's gunshots which resounded throughout the province capital resulted in a number of inmates killed or wounded. But right after that, the jailers marched away a great many prisoners on charge of riot. This produced a stir. Many people rushed to the nearby enemy post, to denounce the murderers and demand medical treatment for the wounded, damages to the victims' families, punishment of the criminals and return of the abducted detainees.

The aforesaid horrors seriously violated Articles 8 (a) and 8 (c) of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and Articles 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8 (b) of the Protocol on the return of the detained personnel.

in the cities

o In recent contacts with a number of Saigon MPs representatives of the wharf workers have forcefully denounced the Saigon administration's continued use of the system of contractors. The latter were accused by those representatives of having robbed the workers of billions of (SVN) piastres, hiring thugs to terrorize them and seizing control of their trade unions. The workers' representatives demanded that this system of contractors be abolished to ensure the freedom of work.

o On Thieu's orders, the Saigon Municipality has enforced the August 19, 1972 Decree No 118, forcing all persons of the male sex from 18 to 43 including religious into "people's self-defence" units and as such into military training. A vigorous campaign has been set on foot among Saigonese of all walks of life for the cancellations of this fascist measure and for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

o A new tax-collecting drive has been launched by the Saigon administration : small traders have now to pay unreasonable taxes, such as that for pavement occupation, landing stage occupation, tax on hawkers, etc. This Thieu move to raise old taxes and institute new ones has met with strong opposition from the Saigonese. On May 31, a number of MPs also voiced their disagreement and urged that the tax Department cancel arbitrary taxes and especially the retroactive collecting of income tax for the years from 1968 to 1971 on small traders.

o The Saigon paper *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) wrote on June 8 on the "nine main aspirations of the South Vietnamese in connection with peace". The paper said that their first wish is the "observance of the cease-fire and delineation of the zones of control" (of the two South Vietnamese sides). The others are : "tax decrease since there is no point increasing the war potential," "an end to injustices to ensure a decent life to all," "formation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and holding of free elections." "We think that these aspirations must be met" the paper concluded. "Those who help fulfil them will be held in affection and respect by the people."

o The Association of South Viet Nam Private-School Teachers has recently sent a letter to a Saigon MP denouncing that for the last 18 months, especially for the last two weeks, Saigon tax officials had been resorting to crude methods against the teachers ; they confiscated desks and benches, books and even the bed of the Phan Sao Nam schoolmaster and searched the bed-rooms and private houses of many other teachers. The Association flayed the Saigon Ministry of Education's lack of any sense of responsibility and insisted that the Saigon administration put an end to such offenses against the teachers' dignity.

o In an article entitled *A year of bitterness* published in its June 9 issue in commemoration of its first year of publication, the Saigon paper *Dong Phuong* (The East) complained: "Few papers have encountered in their very first issues, as did *Dong Phuong*, such terrific storms and undergone such vicissitudes. Barely two months after its birth, its director fell a victim to a sordid assassination by an unknown person, while his surviving colleagues were continually threatened. One of its correspondents recently had a narrow escape from a gun attempt on his life. Then its editorial board received a threat of destruction with an explosive. Besides, there were hundreds of calamities befalling it including the payment of caution, money confiscation and law action, the skyrocketing of newsprint price, the practice of borrowing newspapers, etc.

o On June 12, an opposition paper, *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) was seized for having carried an article demanding the implementation of Article 11 of the Paris Agreement (concerning democratic freedoms).

BU DOP
a highland townlet

THE coming back of peace had found Bu Dop in a festive mood where a riot of NFL flags was seen flapping everywhere — on the wind-swept hilltops as well as on the areas which not long ago were still under US control: military sub-sectors, comman'o-training centres, airfields, military compounds...

Roads branching off from the townlet and bridges in the vicinity had come successively under systematic repair. Carcasses of burned-out enemy tanks and blown-up artillery pieces had just been bulldozed away and the cleaning up of barbed-wire concertinas and rubble were in full swing. And here and there, new houses and hamlets colourfully adorned the scene against a green sea of newly-leafed rubber trees.

Of all the joys the residents of Bu Dop were savouring the one that gave us the deepest impression was the heady atmosphere of their hectic preparations for the coming crop. An old man from Thien Hung village told me: "You couldn't see this at the time our town was liberated last year. When the enemy troops took to their heels, they left in their wake all kinds of threats the gravest of which was a possible extermination by saturation bombing of those who stayed behind. We took it seriously but didn't flinch and clung to the place. And we couldn't be more inspired. With the revolutionary power here to see to our safety, we were still more than OK despite US bombing."

The next leg of my visit was Chau Ninh hamlet, which was wholly populated by Catholics. There I met uncle Ba Xuan who had lived at Bu Dop for many years, when the enemy still ruled the roost there. He confided to me that all through his forty miserable years as a plantation coolie, this was the first time his family and he had tasted of freedom. Since liberation, the needs of his family and other town dwellers had been amply met by the revolutionary government: rice for the hungry, medical care for the sick, and land to the tillers. Thorough farming courses were given to those who were not yet expert at crop-rearing and schools opened their doors to illiterate children... "That's why," he said, "old as I am, I'm still doing my best to boost production. Just to show my appreciation, you know."

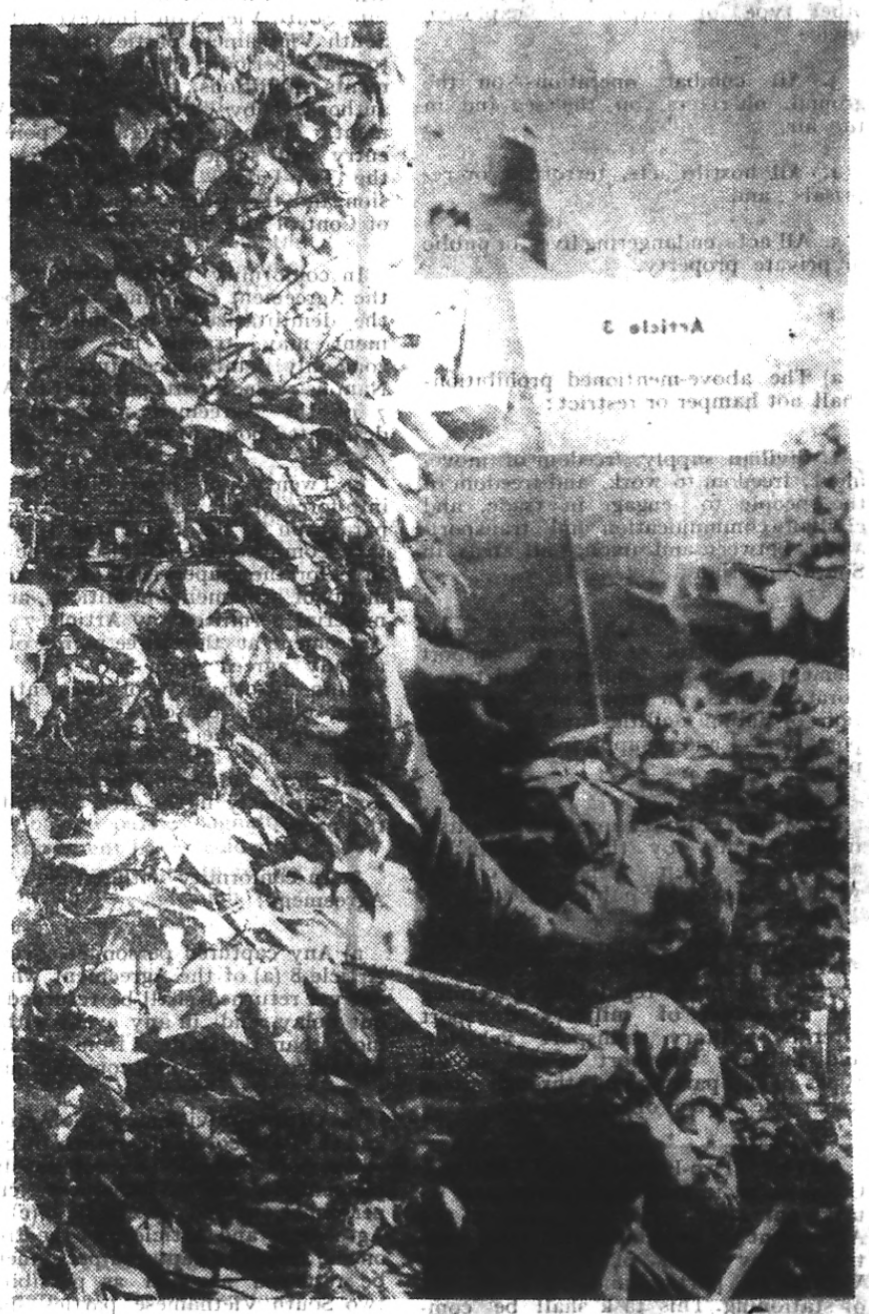
This time last year when we had just retaken Bu Dop, the revolutionary government encouraged the people to bend all their efforts on the production of foodstuffs. Tractors made their appearance in the fields. As a result, the first harvest of maize on the liberated land was good, which made the farmers beam with contentment. But things were not that simple. As the harvest drew near, some villagers at Tan Xa Kiem became restless, and distress showed on their faces. They came to the village authorities asking if they might bring in their crop.

"Why not?" they answered in surprise, "You grew it, didn't you? So go there and reap the fruits of your labour. Who ever speaks of any permission of that kind!"

The truth about this incident slowly came to the surface. After years of stay in the concentration camp surrounded by the enemy with hardly any contacts with the outside world, not all could stand the strain and not give credence to the vicious propaganda that in the liberated areas everything you had was common property and that whenever you wanted to eat something you should first get leave to do so from the communists. Hence that confusion and concern. But now, that kind of nonsense and slander only made people laugh in contempt.

ON my arrival, the villagers at Tan Xa Kiem were busy getting ready for the coming season. No more signs of confusion or bewilderment anywhere. Everyone was talking with gusto about production, self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, and determination to build up and defend the liberated area.

Tan Xa Kiem is a newly set up village of Bu Dop. Apart from some people who were native of the former Thuan Kiem village, the majority of its population came from Tan Hung, Tan Phuoc and Xa Trach villages in Hon Quan. They left the area controlled by the Saigon regime and reached Bu Dop by different routes and in several batches to fulfil their keen wish to become free citizens under the revolutionary regime.



Pepper plantations abound in South Viet Nam liberated zones

The unfamiliarity with farming of the Tan Xa Kiem people, former coolies of the rubber plantations and traders, did not in the least interfere with their co-operation in work and their life full of love, solidarity and concord.

The revolutionary authorities of Tan Xa Kiem had just distributed to the happy villagers 36 hectares of land. In only a short emulation drive, the whole village increased the acreage under crop to 67 hectares by fire clearing. A new movement called "the five bests" has just been launched for the best crop ever.

I was greeted by the rhythmic clanging of a hammer against the anvil in a new smithy in Hamlet 3 of Tan Xa Kiem. Uncle Tam Hoac, the smith, was intent on his work. Hoes were being mass-produced there. Uncle Nam Lu seemed deaf to all things but the roaring of his bellows and nearby Ranh, a lad all wet with sweat, was cutting up sheets of iron from US armour and oil drums.

A native from Ben Tre province, uncle Tam Hoac talked to me in his usual jovial way: "Big caterers them Yankees! Just look at the iron and steel they've left behind. No question of shortage of hoes and other farming implements for a long time to come although there is heavy demand for them now. Every organization is trying to turn out these tools—the production teams, the branches of the Youth League and Women's Federation and then the guerillas themselves! Couldn't say I got a clear idea of how to produce them at first. But now everything is in order. People don't even want to wait a decent time for the tools to cool down, mind you! They simply snatch them and flee!"

The team of "meritorious" Ut was one of the twenty-one teams awarded the title "team of unity, good production and assistance" of Tan Xa Kiem. "Meritorious" Ut was really up to the people's praises. Widowed only recently, with five children (which took a lot of her time), she still managed to perform satisfactorily her duty as head of a team consisting of dozens of households. She seldom spoke about herself but she was not tired of talking about her team.

"The one who deserves every praise is Mrs Ut Choi of my team," she said. "Each of the four hands of her household has overfulfilled his quota by nearly two thousand square meters of cleared land. Just some days ago, a number of people from other localities came here and volunteered to join the co-operative. Seeing that they were short of food, she gave them hundreds of kilos of rice."

Mrs Hai Sinh, headwoman of Tan Hung hamlet and mother of three, showed me the temporary dwelling sheds, the maize fields and the paddies where the plants were earing. She was warmly received by her people wherever she went. Mrs Hai Thu informed her that water potatoes of the Fourth Team were doing well. Mr Bay Chap and his wife invited me to take a peep at their maize field and proudly drew her attention to the particularly fat grains on the ears. Mr Tu Giao gloated over his vegetables which were ready for market. And Mr Hai Dac gleefully told her that he was about to reap his short duration rice crop.

"The soil here is miraculously fertile, you know. Just sow anything you like and it grows rapidly," Hai Sinh told me. "Our final word has been said. We'll live and die on this land. Should the Revolution need Bu Dop rice or latex, we're always ready to comply. Any place you live on our national soil is your native place, isn't it?"

THE youth of Bu Dop had gained prominence for their part in the emulation drive, in the defence of their liberated area and in the building up of a new life. And yet not long ago they still lived in the iron grip of the enemy. They knew little of the Revolution; moreover, they were in constant touch with the unwholesome way of life and thinking of the US-Thieu regime. When Bu Dop was liberated they were in a daze and saw things confusedly. But today, they have reached up to the proportion of the nation. It's they who are playing the role of a shock troop in every activity of Bu Dop now.

The youth of Bu Dop are very active. They are fond of singing and dancing and sports. They are seen everywhere all day, doing things eagerly and enthusiastically. They work in the fields and join in the military training so as to effectively defend the liberated areas when need be. You can find them among these people who are repairing bridges and roads; you can find them among those who are building a new school; and you can find them in groups who are helping each other in their studies. And you will not fail to spot several of Bu Dop's youths in the ranks of those youth brigades who are setting off in different directions to work tirelessly for the common welfare.

The townlet of Bu Dop has experienced many vicissitudes and bitterness. But today, its population are enjoying a new life in the glorious sunlight, in a liberated zone that is marching forward with youthful vigour and zeal.

P.V.

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

of four signatory parties to Paris Agreement

The parties signatory to the Parris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam signed in Paris on June 13 the following joint communiqué :

THE parties signatory to the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, signed on January 27, 1973.

Considering that strict respect and scrupulous implementation of all provisions of the Agreement and its Protocols by all the parties signatory to them are necessary to ensure peace in Viet Nam and contribute to the cause of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia;

Have agreed on the following points (in the sequence of the relevant Articles in the Agreement) :

1. In conformity with Article 2 of the Agreement : The United States shall cease immediately, completely, and indefinitely aerial reconnaissance over the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

2. In conformity with Article 2 of the Agreement and with the Protocol on mine-clearance :

a) The United States shall resume mine-clearance operations within five days from the date of signature of this joint communiqué and shall successfully complete those operations within thirty days thereafter.

b) The United States shall supply to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam means which are agreed to be adequate and sufficient for sweeping mines in rivers.

c) The United States shall announce when the mine clearance in each main channel is completed and issue a final announcement when all the operations are completed.

3. In implementation of Article 2 of the Agreement, at 12:00 hours, GMT June 14, 1973, the high commands of the two South Vietnamese parties shall issue identical orders to all regular and irregular armed forces and the armed police under their command, to strictly observe the ceasefire thoughout South Viet Nam beginning at 04:00 hours, GMT... June 15, 1973, and scrupulously implement the Agreement and its Protocols.

4. The two South Vietnamese parties shall strictly implement Articles 2 and 3 of the Protocol on the ceasefire in South Viet Nam which read as follows:

Article 2

a) As soon as the ceasefire comes into force and until regulations are issued by the Joint Military Commissions, all ground, river, sea and air combat forces of the parties in South Viet Nam shall remain in place; that is, in order to ensure a stable ceasefire, there shall be no major redeployments or movements that would extend each party's area of control or would result in contact between opposing armed forces and clashes which might take place.

b) All regular and irregular armed forces and the armed police of the parties in South Viet Nam shall observe the prohibition of the following acts :

1. Armed patrols into areas controlled by opposing armed forces and flights by bomber and fighter aircraft of all types, except for unarmed flights for proficiency training, and maintenance ;

2. Armed attacks against any person, either military or civilian, by any means whatsoever, including the use of small arms, mortars, artillery, bombing and strafing by airplanes and any other type of weapon or explosive device ;

3. All combat operations on the ground, on rivers, on the sea and in the air;

4. All hostile acts, terrorism or reprisals ; and

5. All acts endangering lives or public or private property.

Article 3

a) The above-mentioned prohibitions shall not hamper or restrict :

1. Civilian supply, freedom of movement, freedom to work, and freedom of the people to engage in trade, and civilian communication and transportation between and among all areas in South Viet Nam;

2. The use by each party in areas under its control of military support elements, such as engineer and transporation units, in repair and construction of public facilities and the transportation and supplying of the population;

3. Normal military proficiency training conducted by the parties in the areas under their respective control with due regard for public safety.

b) The Joint Military Commissions shall immediately agree on corridors, routes, and other regulations governing the movement of military transport aircraft, military transport vehicles, and military transport vessels of all types of one party going through areas under the control of other parties.

5. The Two-Party Joint Military Commission immediately carry out its task pursuant to Article 3 (b) of the Agreement to determine the areas controlled by each of the two South Vietnamese parties and the modalities of stationing. This task shall be completed as soon as possible. The Commission shall also immediately discuss the movements necessary to accomplish a return of the armed forces of the two South Vietnamese parties to the positions they occupied at the time the ceasefire entered into force on January 28, 1973.

6. Twenty-four hours after the ceasefire referred to in paragraph 3 enters into force, the commanders of the opposing armed forces at those places of direct contact shall meet to carry out the provisions of Article 4 of the Protocol on the ceasefire in South Viet Nam with a view to reaching an agreement on temporary measures to avert conflict and to ensure supply and medical care for these armed forces.

7. In conformity with Article 7 of the Agreement :

a) The two South Vietnamese parties shall not accept the introduction of troops, military advisers, and military personnel, including technical military personnel, into South Viet Nam.

b) The two South Vietnamese parties shall not accept the introduction of armaments, munitions, and war material into South Viet Nam. However, the two South Vietnamese parties are permitted to make periodic replacement of armaments munitions, and war material, as authorized by Article 7 of the Agreement, through designated points of entry and subject to supervision by the Two-Party Joint Military Commission and the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

In conformity with Article 15 (b) of the Agreement regarding the respect of the demilitarized zone, military equipment may transit the demilitarized zone only if introduced into South Viet Nam as replacements pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement and through a designated point of entry.

c) Twenty-four hours after the entry into force of the ceasefire referred to in paragraph 3, the Two-Party Joint Military Commission shall discuss the modalities for the supervision of the replacements of armaments munitions, and war material permitted by Article 7 of the Agreement at the three points of entry already agreed upon for each party. Within fifteen days of the entry into force of the ceasefire referred to in paragraph 3, the two South Vietnamese parties shall also designate by agreement three additional points of entry for each party in the area controlled by the party.

8. In conformity with Article 8 of the Agreement :

a) Any captured personnel covered by Article 8 (a) of the Agreement who have not yet returned shall be returned without delay, and in any event within no more than thirty days from the date of signature of this joint communiqué.

b) All the provisions of the Agreement and the Protocol on the return of captured personnel shall be scrupulously implemented. All Vietnamese civilian personnel covered by Article 8 (c) of the Agreement and Article 7 of the Protocol on the return of captured personnel shall be returned as soon as possible. The two South Vietnamese parties shall do their utmost to accomplish this within forty-five days from the date of signature of this joint communiqué.

c) In conformity with Article 8 of the return of captured personnel, all captured and detained personnel covered by that Protocol shall be treated humanely at all times. The two South Vietnamese parties shall immediately implement Article 9 of that Protocol and within fifteen days from the date of signature of this joint communiqué, allow national red cross societies they have agreed upon to visit all places where these personnel are held.

d) The two South Vietnamese parties shall cooperate in obtaining information about missing persons and in determining the location of and in taking care of the graves of the dead.

e) In conformity with Article 8 (b) of the Agreement, the parties shall help each other to get information about those military personnel and foreign civilians of the parties missing in action, to determine the location and take care of the graves of the dead so as to facilitate the exhumation and repatriation of the remains, and to take any such other measures as may be required to get information about those still considered missing in action. For this purpose, frequent and regular liaison flights shall be made between Saigon and Hanoi.

9. The two South Vietnamese parties shall implement Article 11 of the Agreement, which reads as follows :

" Immediately after the cease-fire, the two South Vietnamese parties will :

— Achieve national reconciliation and concord, end hatred and enmity, prohibit all acts of reprisal and discrimination against individuals or organizations that have collaborated with one side or the other ;

— Ensure the democratic liberties of the people : "Personal freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of meeting, freedom of organization, freedom of political activities, freedom of belief, freedom of movement, freedom of residence, freedom of work, right to property ownership and right to free enterprise. "

10. Consistent with the principles for the exercise of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination stated in Chapter 4 of the Agreement :

a) The South Vietnamese people shall decide themselves the political future of South Viet Nam through genuinely free and democratic general elections under international supervision.

b) The national council of national reconciliation and concord consisting of three equal segments shall be formed as soon as possible, in conformity with Article 12 of the Agreement.

The two South Vietnamese parties shall sign an agreement on the internal matters of South Viet Nam as soon as possible, and shall do their utmost to accomplish this within forty-five days from the date of signature of this joint communiqué.

c) The two South Vietnamese parties shall agree through consultations on the institutions for which the free and democratic general elections provided for in Article 9 (b) of the agreement will be held.

d) The two South Vietnamese parties shall implement Article 13 of the Agreement, which reads as follows :

" The question of Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam shall be settled by the two South Vietnamese parties in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, equality and mutual respect, without foreign interference, in accordance with the postwar situation. Among the questions to be discussed by the two South Vietnamese parties are steps to reduce their military effectives and to demobilize the troops being reduced. The two South Vietnamese parties will accomplish this as soon as possible. "

11. In implementation of Acticle 17 of the Agreement :

a) All the provisions of Articles 16 and 17 of the Protocol on the ceasefire in South Viet Nam shall immediately be implemented with respect to the Two-Party Joint Military Commission. That Commission shall also immediately be accorded the eleven points of privileges and immunities agreed upon by the Four-Party Joint Military Commission. Frequent and regular liaison flights shall be made between Saigon and the headquarters of the regional Two-Party Joint Military Commissions and other places in South Viet Nam as required for the operations of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission. Frequent and regular liaison flights shall also be made between Saigon and Loc Ninh.

b) The headquarters of the central Two-Party Joint Military Commission shall be located in Saigon proper or at a place agreed upon by the two South Vietnamese parties where an area controlled by one of them adjoins an area controlled by the other. The locations of the headquarters of the regional Two-Party Joint Military Commissions and of the teams of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission shall be determined by that Commission within fifteen days after the entry into force of the ceasefire referred to in paragraph 3. These locations may be changed at any time as determined by the Commission. The locations, except for teams at the points of entry, shall be selected from among those towns specified in Article 11 (b) and (c) of the Protocol on the ceasefire in South Viet Nam and those places where an area controlled by the South Vietnamese party adjoins an area controlled by the other, or at any other place agreed upon by the Commission.

c) Once the privileges and immunities mentioned in paragraph 11 (a) are accorded by both South Vietnamese parties, the Two-Party Joint Military Commission shall be fully staffed and its regional commissions and teams fully deployed within fifteen days after their locations have been determined.

d) The Two-Party Joint Commission and the International Commission of Control and Supervision shall closely cooperate with and assist each other in carrying out their respective functions.

12. In conformity with Article 18 of the Agreement and Article 10 of the Protocol on the international commission of control and supervision, the international commission, including its teams, is allowed such movement for observation as is reasonably required for the proper exercise of its functions as stipulated in the Agreement. In carrying out these functions, the international commission, including its teams, shall enjoy all necessary assistance and cooperation from the parties concerned. The two South Vietnamese parties shall issue the necessary instructions to their personnel and take all other necessary measures to ensure the safety of such movement.

13. Article 20 of the Agreement, regarding Cambodia and Laos, shall be scrupulously implemented.

14. In conformity with Article 21 of the Agreement, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam — United States Joint Economic Commission shall resume its meetings four days from the date of signature of this joint communiqué and shall complete the first phase of its work within fifteen days thereafter.

Affirming that the parties concerned shall strictly respect and scrupulously implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement, its Protocols, and this joint communiqué, the undersigned representatives of the parties signatory to the Paris Agreement have decided to issue this joint communiqué to record and publish the points on which they have agreed.

Signed in Paris, June 13, 1973.

For the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam	*For the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam*
LE DUC THO	**NGUYEN VAN HIEU**
Representative of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam	Minister of State of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam
For the Government of the United States of America	*For the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam*
HENRY A. KISSINGER	**NGUYEN LUU VIEN**
Assistant to the President of the United States of America	Representative of the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam

Chairman NGUYEN HUU THO in Quang Tri province

DURING his stay in Quang Tri, President Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the NFL CC, and Chairman of the PRG Advisory Council, had cordial talks with the local population, mass organisations and armed forces. He paid a visit to a heroic unit—Trieu Ai village—of Trieu Phong district, a unit of the PLAF on the Thach Han river-shore, and 3 heroic units : Battalion 10, Company 4 of Gio Linh's regional forces, and a guerilla unit of Hai Phu village.

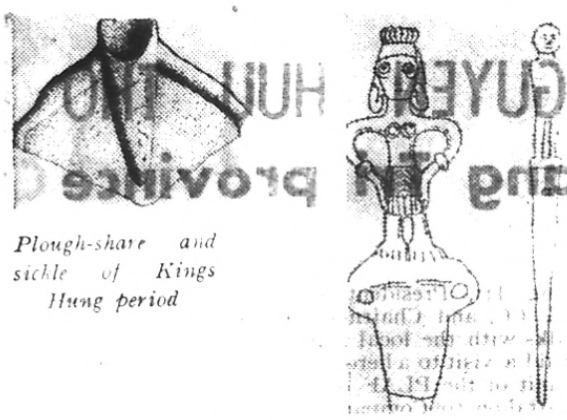
Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho reviewing a defence unit of Cua Viet

... Conferring with Hung Hoa district delegates

... Shaking hands with Gio Hai villagers and militants

in DRVN

VESTIGES OF KINGS HUNG PERIOD FOUND IN NGHE AN



Plough-share and sickle of Kings Hung period

MORE vestiges of the period of Kings Hung, founders of the Vietnamese nation, have been found in Nghe An province, some three hundred kilometres south of Hanoi.

The first stage of the diggings undertaken in Lang Vac, Nghia Dan district, Nghe An province, has just ended. The discovery of the site and the first investigations which started in the thick of the war, had brought quite a surprise to Vietnamese historians in view of the dimensions and the richness of the historical and cultural vestiges. Now, we can truly appreciate the importance of the finds.

The extent of the Kings Hung civilization is well known. From the provinces of Vinh Phu and Ha Tay, the Phung Nguyen - Dong Son culture (Second and First Millennium B.C.) extended along the Red River till Yen Bai and Lao Cai. To the other side, it extended to Hanoi, Ha Bac and Hai Phong. Southward, it reached the vicinity of the Transversal Mount in Quang Binh province. However, at some distance from the midland and the delta of the Red River, so far we have found only groups of isolated ancient objects. The marvellous development of culture at the early stage of the existence of our people on the banks of Ma River, at the famous site of Dong Son (Thanh Hoa) astonished us. We are all the more surprised to find here again, imbedded in the earth, such a rich treasure of the same vestiges. Here in Lang Vac, more than one hundred kilometres south of Dong Son, quite a distance from Phong Chau, centre of the ancient Vietnamese civilization which extended over four hundred kilometres of continuous forests, mountains and streams, we meet again and with the same extraordinary intensity the marvellous Dongsonian culture of the Kings Hung period.

One hundred ancient tombs dating about twenty five centuries have just been carefully examined. Besides the children's tombs (unless they are reinhumations of adults) consisting of two pottery vases lying mouth to mouth, it is interesting to note the practice of bordering the graves with broken stones or debris of ceramics. Worthy of particular notice is that numerous tombs are covered with big stone-plates laid obliquely in the manner of a double-slope roof. These graves, like the coffins carved into big tree-trunks discovered in Hai Phong, contain objects of a marked Dongsonian style. Both these types of sepulture were found not long ago in the areas inhabited by the Muong minority people.

Many remarkable ancient objects have been found here. Within a relatively short period and on a relatively narrow space, we have discovered no less than two hundred bronze objects, including eight drums, along with many ceramics, some of which attain a size never seen before, and ornaments in rare stone and jasper. All the drums belong to the type now called Dongsonian, tripartite, reputed for the balance of their forms and their marked originality. The decorative motifs (central sun, birds, boats) are also well known. On one of them, however, we note pairs of zebus, one male and one female. For the first time, a drum of such size (fifty centimetres high and sixty centimetres across) was found *in situ* in a grave.

This drum was buried above the head of the dead with its face turned downward. The drum contains a bronze urn which in its turn contains a pan.

Among the luxury articles found at Lang Vac, there is a ladle in an unusual form, provided with two very small bells at the end of the handle. This is the second ancient big bronze ladle found in Viet Nam, the first being unearthed in Viet Khe, Hai Phong. Its silhouette, however, is completely different. These small bells, conical or flattened, are very gracious and are found in great numbers here. As ornaments to this ladle as well as to bolt knuckles, and chiefly to wrist an ankle-covers, each of the latter being provided with ten to twelve of these miniature musical devices, these bells evoke a very lively impression of man and life in the Dongsonian times.

The weapons are also quite original, especially the daggers, many of which have well-wrought handles. Women-shaped handles found earlier in Ha Tay and Thanh Hoa are like the ones found here: A woman with a turban head-dress and floral skirt, a quadruple neck-ring, hands akimbo, with bracelets on the wrists. But here, a series of dagger-handles have been found with a style never seen before; one of them ends with a figurine representing a standing dog. Another, more complicated, consists of a couple of snakes, one with a crest, the other without, twisted together, head erected, holding in their open mouths, one the fore legs, the other the hind legs of a harnessed elephant. Another independent statuette of elephant was also found. These are art works full of creative imagination.

We believe that in pursuing our excavations, we could find other objects with a marked Dongsonian style and with a no less marked local character, vigour in particular. There is a close connection, between the hard lines of the designs and the solid spearheads among the Lang Vac artifacts and the face of the bronze drum found not far away, in the Dong Hieu State farm, in 1959. Measuring eighty-nine centimetres in diametre, this drum is the biggest bronze drum ever found in Viet Nam. Thus, we are actually in an archaeological site having an undoubtedly rich content and scientific value. We could not yet estimate with precision the extent of Lang Vac site. But during their joint researches, the National Institute of Archaeology and the provincial Culture Service have discovered in addition, on the other bank of Hien River a new site — Lang Boi — only five or six kilometres from Lang Vac, obviously belonging to the same cultural system. We can conclude that the western territory of this rough jungled area of Nghe An, was at the time of the founding of our first State, a fairly populated region where our ancestors engaged in quite intensive activities.

The collection of intact weapons of the Dongsonian type in Mount Tan, Nam Dan district, about one hundred kilometres south of Lang Vac, strengthens our belief that in crossing La River into Xuan An, Ha Tinh province, and in crossing Gianh River into the southern bank of Troc River and the northern bank of Nhat Le River, Quang Binh province, in revisiting the sites where chance had brought us into contact with Dongsonian relics, we could find new vestiges of dwellings, new findings, new historic documents, and shed more light on the radiant epoch of Kings Hung which is a pride of our people, on the remote past of our valiant Fourth Interzone.

Here and There

THE BOOMERANG

Liberation Agency reported that at My Tho, on May 22, troops of Saigon 7th division had laid mines and killed 7 civilians of Nho Binh village, Chau Thanh Nam district. The village's authorities and police shifted the blame for the coup onto the PLAF. They even had the cheek to invite a team of the ICSC to come and investigate on the spot.

But the families and co-villagers of the casualties showed the investigators splinters of the mines which established the responsibility of the Saigon troops.

After hearing the accusers' evidence and examining the exhibits, the team concluded that the murder had been committed by the Saigon soldiery while the victims' relatives and countrymen continued to press for damages for the lives lost, medical care for the wounded and strict implementation of the Paris Agreement.

WATERGATE IS ONLY PART OF A WIDER DRIVE

The magnitude of the Watergate mess has been compounded by successive disclosures to the Senate Commission of Inquiry. For better comprehension, a difference must be made between the multitude of ramifications the scandal involves. There is not only one but many "Watergates," witness the following counts:

Buying of telegrammes of support for Nixon's December 1972 blitz on Hai Phong and Hanoi;

Unlawful acceptance of funds for the reelection of Nixon by the Committee of the same name;

Break-in by Nixon's men into Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office for theft of records of his case history;

Illegal organization by the US President of a personal secret service;

Setting up by the Committee for the Reelection of the President of a call-girls' ring to pump information from democratic representatives;

Misuse by Nixon of public money for the maintenance of his San Clemente residence...

And so on and so forth...

At the public hearing of Mr Magruder before the Watergate Commission, one was able to know a lot which gave much food for thought. To such an extent that *Reuter* described his testimony as the most damaging for the White House since the opening of the interrogations over the last three weeks.

NEW EVIDENCE

In mid-June, a "new substantial gain in the struggle of the Vietnamese people and their friends all over the world for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement and its Protocols has been scored," said Mr Le Duc Tho, the DRVN envoy, after the signing of the communiqué on June 13, 1973 between the four parties to the Paris Agreement which crowned his recent encounter with Dr Henry Kissinger, the US representative. But he had to add that the morning news of June 16 said that the Saigon administration still refused to disseminate widely the cease-fire order, continued its military operations including air strikes against many localities and persisted in breaking its pledges.

All that boils down to the following:

Failure to broadcast on *Saigon Radio* the cease-fire order, while *Liberation Radio* has announced it for the PLAF to strictly enforce it as from 12 hours, June 15, 1973, Saigon time, as agreed on;

After the cease-fire order came into force: pounding of An Phu, Phu My Hung, Trung Lap Thuong with over 1,500 shells by Saigon guns positioned at Dong Du, Trung Hoa, Dong Chua, Bau Cha Ray; inroads into the areas of Bau Tram, Suoi Sup, Tam Dinh, Go Noi, Tam Lanh, Bau Dung by battalions of the 46th Regiment of the 25th Division; reconnoitering raid by Saigon over Phong Dien (Thua Thien); at 12:30 on June 15, bombing south of Highway 1 at Trang Bang (Tay Ninh) by Skyraiders guided by helicopters and based in Bien Hoa; bombings by Al's of frontier areas; etc. All those breaches were reported by foreign correspondents who were eye-witnesses.

The latter also made known that many of them had been prevented by Thieu's MP from going out of Saigon to cover the situation in the northern and western areas of the city. They were even threatened with guns when they attempted to get out of Saigon while its artillery went on with its shelling.

How long the US and its Saigon clients can continue to challenge public opinion and common sense, after taking pledges upon pledges, remains to be seen.

HUONG NAM

in the international arena

LPF's IMPORTANT SUCCESS

SINCE mid-April 1973, a delegation of the Lao Patriotic Front led by Nouhak Phoumsavan, Executive Member of the LPF Central Committee, has visited a number of friendly countries.

The first leg of the tour was the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, lasting from April 13 to 16, with the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the DRVN Government playing host. Then the LPF delegation successively went to the People's Republic of China (from April 16 to 23, as guests of the China Communist Party Central Committee and the Chinese Government), the Korean People's Democratic Republic (from April 23 to May 1, invited by the Korean National Assembly and Cabinet of Ministers), the German Democratic Republic (from May 2 to 7, at the invitation of the German United Socialist Party Central Committee), the Soviet Union (from May 8 to 14, as guests of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union), Cuba (from May 15 to 22, at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party CC and the Government of Cuba), Czechoslovakia (from May 23 to 28, as guests of the Czechoslovak National Front Central Committee), Romania (from May 28 to June 2, at the invitation of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee), Bulgaria (from June 3 to 6, at the invitation of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee), Hungary (from June 7 to 11, invited by the Hungarian Workers' Socialist Party and the Patriotic People's Front), and Albania (since June 12 at the invitation of the Albanian Democratic Front National Council).

Everywhere, the LPF delegation was granted a warm and impressive welcome by the people, Government, Party and National Front leaders. Cordial talks were held in an atmosphere of militant friendship, and complete identity of views was reached on all problems discussed. In joint communiqués, prominence was given to the role of the LPF headed by Prince Souphanouvong in the Lao people's anti-US resistance for national salvation which was crowned by the February 21 Agreement on the Restoration of Peace and Achievement of National Concord in Laos—a momentous success of the Lao people. "The Lao people have set a shining example to oppressed nations all over the world, they have shown that a weak country, a small country can successfully confront a strong country, a big country," said China's Vice-Premier Li Hsien Nien on the evening of April 17. In joint communiqués, the US and the Vientiane administration were strongly condemned for having impeded by all means the implementation of the Vientiane Agreement, they and the Thailand mercenary troops were denounced as having systematically and overtly sabotaged that agreement while US neo-colonialist manoeuvres to prolong its sway over Laos and its savage bombing of areas under the control of the Lao Patriotic Front were bared.

Assurances were given by all host countries that continued support would be accorded to the legitimate effort of the Lao patriotic forces for a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral, unified and prosperous Laos, and to the policy of the LPF regarding the implementation of the Vientiane Agreement and the achievement of the Lao people's fundamental democratic rights.

The tour of the LPF delegation has not ended but its complete success is left in no doubt. Through it, the international image of the LPF has gained added lustre and friendly ties between Laos and the other countries have been strengthened, the Lao people's fight has been given more possibilities to score new successes in the realization of peace and national concord in conformity with the spirit and letter of the Vientiane Agreement.

Sharing with the Lao people their elation, we in South Viet Nam are determined to continue to struggle shoulder to shoulder with them to force the US imperialists and US-stooge administrations to strictly respect and implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and Vientiane Agreement on Laos. We shall bring to fruition our movements for national liberation in both South Viet Nam and Laos.

DINH BA

CAMBODIA

10,500 ENEMY WIPED OUT IN MAY

THE Cambodian liberation forces scored inspiring victories in May, wiping out and capturing 10,500 enemy including 15 US pilots, according to *AKI*.

They also shot down 15 aircraft, blew up 6 bridges, levelled 258 fortified positions and barracks, sank or damaged 84 vessels, destroyed 49 military vehicles including 11 tanks and seized 2,900 assorted weapons, and 190 tons of war material. 1,500 more people were freed from the enemy's grip and hundreds of Lon Nol puppet troops crossed over to the people's side.

May saw particularly violent battles in the Eastern and Southeastern parts of the country and the Phnom Penh special sector especially on the main highways, in the surroundings of the capital and the provinces temporarily controlled by the enemy. At present, the portions of Highway 1 between Khban Salang and Dei Et, of Highway 2 between Phnom Penh and the Viet Nam border and of Highway 3 between Phnom Penh and Tram Khna are completely under the control of the patriotic forces.

Many positions like Prey Tortoeng, Doeum Ang Krong, Doeum Rorka, etc., were repeatedly attacked while Tram Khna position has remained under siege for many months past. Highways 4 and 5 were also cut in many places.

Highway 5 has remained impassable for the enemy for a year now. From Dei Et to the Viet Nam border, the liberation forces are controlling all traffic on the Mekong river linking Phnom Penh with Saigon. The siege continues to tighten on a number of provincial and district capitals such as Kompong Thom, Sieam Reap, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, etc., and many fortified positions such as Ang Snoul, Kantuot and Setbo, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

in brief ★ in brief ★ in brief ★ in brief ★ in brief

• Recently, the USSR—Afghanistan, the GDR—India, Hungary—Bulgaria, and the Arab Socialist Restoration Party (Iraq)—Polish United Workers' Party joint communiqués warmly welcomed the Vietnamese people's historic victory in their anti-US, pro-national salvation war of resistance. The same communiqués voiced solidarity with, and firm support for, the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples' fight for independence and national reunification. They also condemned the US-backed Saigon administration's brazen and systematic violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and demanded that it immediately release hundreds of thousands of civilian prisoners now being detained in South Viet Nam jails.

• Over 100 scientists and technicians of Britain, France, America, Italy, Holland, Australia... meeting on May 18 and 19, 1973 in London, unanimously passed an appeal to progressive scientists and technicians the world over to use science and technology for helping the Indochinese peoples record ever more successes in their struggles as well as their national reconstruction.

• The movement of money collection for Viet Nam has been making headway in Japan:

On May 30, Pianist Yaoko Yamane contributed to the support Viet Nam fund 359,000 yens he had earned for his performances. On May 31, the Japan Lawyers' Association for International Solidarity sent to Japan Support Viet Nam Committee 868,000 yens. Remarkably, a 100-member trade-union donated to Viet Nam 500,000 yens from a sum gained after a 800-day long strike for wagelift. The 8th Conference of Japanese Scientists held on June 1 and 2 launched a 10 million yen collection drive for Vietnamese scientific workers.

• The France Lawyers' Committee for Viet Nam and the Office of International Amnesty held in Paris on May 24 a silent demonstration with over 200 participants including many well-known lawyers and barristers.

The paraders carried on their chests a list of detainees in South Viet Nam denouncing the illegal arrests and brutal torture by the Nguyen Van Thieu administration. They displayed two "tiger cages," symbolizing the Saigon harsh prison regime and distributed leaflets against the Thieu administration's schemes and acts to liquidate inmates, demanding immediate release of all political prisoners, enforcement of all democratic freedoms and full implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

• On June 1, the Delegation of the South Viet Nam Committee for the Release of the patriots and peace partisans now being held by the Thieu administration attended a teach-in on political prisoners in South Viet Nam at the Swedish Parliament Building. On the same day, Premier Olof Palme received the Delegation and the Presidents of the Sweden Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam, and the Secretary-general of the International Committee of Investigation on US crimes in Indochina. The Swedish Premier pledged all-sided assistance to the Vietnamese patriotic struggle.

• Over 2,000 people attended on May 27 a meeting in Turing, a city in North Italy, in protest against the serious violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam by the US and the Saigon administration and in support of the Indochinese people's just struggle.

On this occasion, the Italy-Viet Nam Committee made known it was bending all its efforts to complete the first batch of aid goods to the people in both parts of Viet Nam.

• Senator Edward Kennedy, in his June 4 speech at the US Senate demanded that the Nixon administration stop backing the Saigon administration's police and prison regime and dismissed the Thieu assertions that there were no political prisoners in South Viet Nam. The Senator confirmed their existence there.

Earlier, Senator McGovern censured the Saigon administration for failing to implement the cease-fire provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and for its continued bombings of South Viet Nam. The Dakota legislator also pointed out that the South Viet Nam liberation army had never violated the cease-fire provisions.

DRVN-PRC

Ever-deeping friendship and militant solidarity

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China, the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Premier of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, paid an official friendly visit to the People's Republic of China from June 4 to 11, 1973 and was accorded a warm welcome and a grand and hearty reception by the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese Government and the Chinese people, for which it expressed sincere thanks.

Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, met with Le Duan, Pham Van Dong and Le Thanh Nghi and had a most cordial and friendly conversation with them.

The Chinese and Vietnamese sides held talks on the further strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two parties and two countries, the new situation in the Vietnamese people's revolutionary struggle and other questions of common interest.

Proceeding in a warm atmosphere, the talks fully manifested the ever-deeping great friendship and militant unity of the two parties, two countries and two peoples.

The joint communiqué on the visit of the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the DRVN stressed :

" Socialist China is making positive contri butions to the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the world against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

The Vietnamese people fully support the Chinese people's for the liberation of Taiwan province, which is an inalienable part of the sacred territory of the People's Republic of China, and are deeply convinced that their struggle will definitely be crowned with final victory.

The Vietnamese side gave an account of the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the four months or more since its signing and reaffirmed the consistent stand taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam of strictly observing and carrying out the Agreement. But the Agreement has not yet been thoroughly implemented because the United States and the Saigon administration have incessantly, systematically and grossly violated important provisions of the Agreement which they undertook to respect, violating the cease-fire, the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, and provisions concerning peace, national independence, democratic freedoms and national concord in South Viet Nam.

The Chinese side highly appraises the indefatigable efforts made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam for the thorough implementation of the Paris Agreement and firmly supports their solemn and just stand in striving to consolidate peace in Viet Nam and safeguard the results already gained.

The Chinese side is glad to see the steady rise of the international prestige of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and reaffirms that it will continue to strengthen in all respects its good relations with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam — the only authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people. The Chinese side declares its full support for the six-point proposal put forward by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on April 25, 1973 to open the way and create favourable conditions for the settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam and the realization of national reconciliation and concord in South Viet Nam.

The Chinese side reaffirms its unshakable determination to continue to perform its internationalist duty. The Chinese people will firmly support and assist the fraternal Vietnamese people in their struggle to safeguard and consolidate peace, build socialism in the North, achieve independence and democracy in the South and proceed to achieve the peaceful reunification of their Fatherland and bring about a peaceful, reunified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam.

The two sides demand that the Saigon authorities and the United States thoroughly respect and strictly implement all the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam. "

The two sides concluded :

"VIET Nam and China are close and fraternal socialist neighbours with a tradition of friendship and unity. The two sides note with satisfaction that the great friendship and militant unity between the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Chinese Communist Party and between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples have grown stronger and developed steadily in the long revolutionary struggles, in which the two peoples experienced untold hardships and sacrifices and won brilliant victories. In the interests of the revolutionary cause of the two peoples and the peoples of the whole world, the two peoples have always supported, helped and encouraged each other in times of both difficulty and victory, undergone many tests and fostered and daily reinforced their profound friendship. The militant unity and great friendship between the two Parties, two Governments and two peoples are based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, they can stand tests and will not be destroyed by any force on earth.

The two sides are glad to see in the signing of the agreement on China's gratuitous economic and military assistance to Viet Nam in 1974 a most vivid expression of the militant unity of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples.

The two sides pledge that they will exert all their efforts to continuously consolidate and strengthen the unbreakable profound friendship and militant unity between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples nurtured under the care of the venerated and beloved President Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the venerated and beloved Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Party."

World-wide welcome to Paris joint communiqué

RIGHT after its signing, the Joint Communiqué of the four parties to the Paris Agreement drew welcome from all parts of the world.

In Berlin, Deputy-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR Gerhard Weiss described it as "a new victory of the fraternal Vietnamese people." "The spirit of dauntless struggle of our Vietnamese friends has forced the United States and the Saigon administration to accept the cessation of their aggressive actions and of their violations of the Agreement," the GDR Vice-Premier pointed out.

In Santiago de Chile, Foreign Minister Orlando Letelie said : "No agreement would become effective if it were not for the objective strength of the revolutionary forces to compel the imperialists to respect and implement it. The newly signed Joint Communiqué is a great success of the Vietnamese in their effort to consolidate their revolutionary position."

In Peking, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Han Nienlung greeted the document as an important gain of the Vietnamese people : "In any circumstances, we will continue to unswerwingly support the fight of the Vietnamese people."

The statement of the World Federation of Trade Unions said : "The Joint Communiqué on measures to implement the Paris Agreement is a great victory of the Vietnamese people. It is particularly important in that the Saigon administration have been forced to renounce their schemes and deliberate violations of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam."

The statement of the World Peace Council said : "The fact that the US had to recognize the solid grounds of the rightful demands (of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam) is a new victory the cause of the Vietnamese people and all the forces of peace in the world associated themselves with it. It is opening new possibilities for routine activities of public opinion which is on the look-out and is urging more and more insistenly the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement."

Kaneko Mitsuhiro, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party, commented : "The signing of the Joint Communiqué is a new blow at the machinations of the United States to perpetuate its colonialist rule in Indochina by the policy of strength."

For the liberation forces on the Indochinese peninsula, Prime Minister Penn Nouth of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia considered the Joint Communiqué to be a substantial achievement of the Vietnamese. He denounced the manœuvres of the US and its Saigon and Phnom Penh agents to divide the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples : "We must remain highly vigilant as regards the scheme of our enemy, but we are certain that no scheme of theirs can succeed."

The Foreign Relations Board of the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front declared in a statement that the communiqué was a new and very important victory of the Vietnamese people in their struggle to make the United States and the Saigon administration strictly and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and a positive contribution of the Vietnamese people to the movement for independence, restoration and consolidation of peace in Indochina and the rest of Southeast Asia."

Apart from hailing this new advance of the Vietnamese, the press in many countries has carried editorials and commentaries on the signifieance of the Joint Communiqué. "The Joint Communiqué is significant in that it recognizes the present political situation in South Viet Nam, that is the existence of two administrations, two armies, different zones of control and three political forces (*Pravda*, USSR, June 16). The Bulgarian daily *Rabotnitachesko Delo* on June 15 exposed the tortuous contentions of the Saigon administration aimed at covering up and pleading for its systematic and serious breaches of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam : "The deception (of the Saigon administration) is only too evident. Its recent acts showed that Thieu had not yet renounced his intention to wreck the Paris Agreement. It is our hope that in the new conditions created by the Joint Communiqué, Thieu's manoeuvres will be checked."

Hungarian opinion also affirmed that "the settlement of the Viet Nam problem and restoration of genuine peace in South Viet Nam be achieved only through the scrupulous implementation of the Paris Agreement." "Through the conclusion of the Joint Communiqué, the United States has itself admitted its violations of the Agreement (the daily *Nepozabadsag*, June 15). "Now as before, the translation of words into reality depends on that attitude of the United States. To what extent will it see to Saigon strict implementation of the Paris Agreement ? The United States and Saigon must respond to the goodwill of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam. They must give up all their dark intentions and settle the political questions of South Viet Nam" (*Nepszava*, June 15).

SOUTH VIET NAM ORGANE CENTRAL OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION